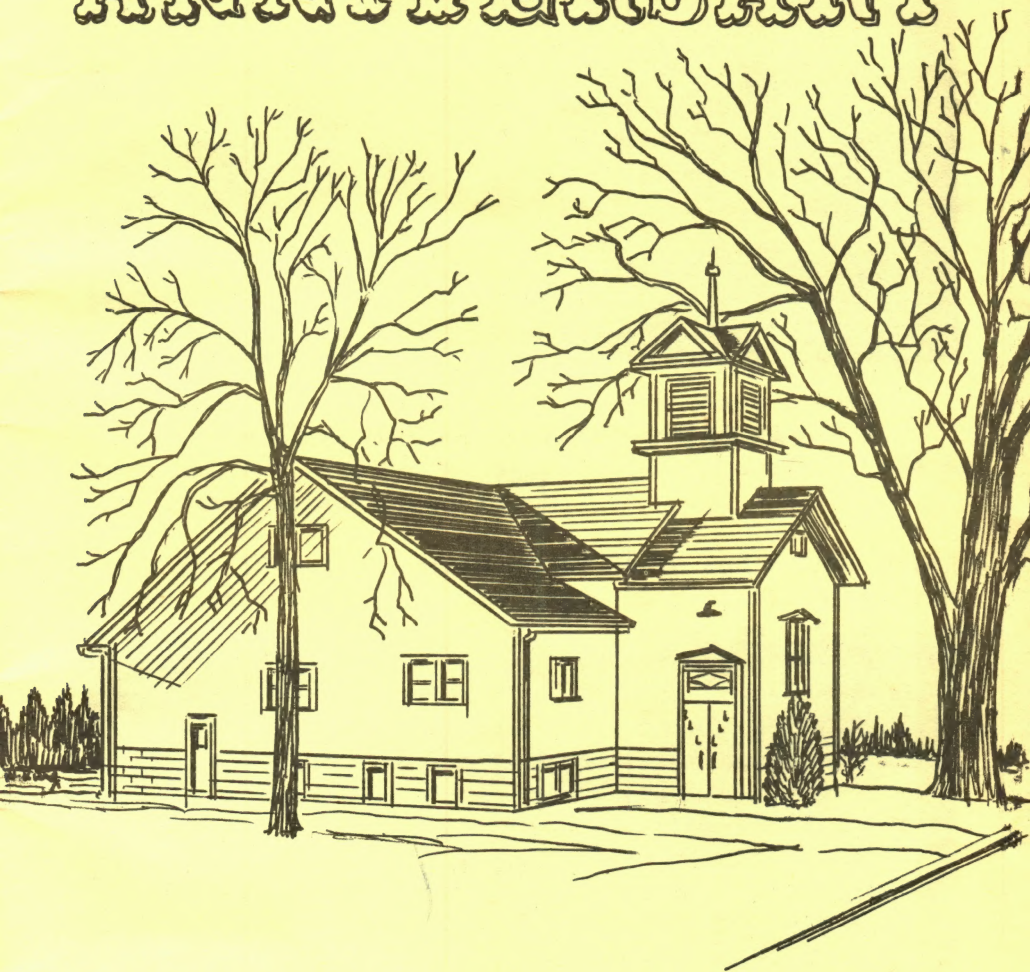


100th

ANNIVERSARY



1870 • 1970

VAN CLEVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



VAN CLEVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1884



VAN CLEVE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1923

HISTORY

VAN CLEVE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

In December, 1869 the Rev. George G. Poage, Congregational minister, began preaching in a schoolhouse, Subdistrict No. 6, Logan township, located at that time two miles South of Van Cleve, under an agreement to preach each alternate Sabbath for six months, for such support as the community might afford.

On Sunday, February 27, 1870, at the close of the church service, those interested in "the building up of Christ's Kingdom and the formation of a church in the community" were requested to remain. Preliminary steps toward organizing a Congregational Church were taken. R.N. Warden and X.C. Stevens were appointed to draft a Code of Bylaws, and Confession of Faith.

On May 22, 1870 the Confession of Faith and Bylaws were amended and accepted and the Logan Congregational Church was organized. Those uniting and presenting letters from other churches were X.C. and Elizabeth Stevens from First Presbyterian, Lacon, Illinois; Robert N. Warden from United Brethren Church, Wilton, Illinois; Julie A. Warden from Congregational Church, Green Mountain, Iowa; Samuel R. McLaren, Reformed Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N.Y. and Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Norton from Green Mountain Congregational Church. In addition to those joining the first church by letter, the following were received by confession of faith: Alonzo J. Owings, Samuel McKeighan, Amanda Owings McKeighan, John D. Ingraham, Mrs. Lucinda Ingraham, B. F. Williams, George Gifford and Louisa M. Shearer.

Rev. Poage continued preaching and on April 30, 1876 a resolution was adopted by the church to invite Rev. G.S. Poage and Rev. S.A. Arnold to preach alternate Sabbaths for the year beginning May 1, 1876, for a salary of not less than \$300.00 to be divided equally between the two.

In 1877, Joseph G. Gowdy gave one acre for burial ground to be situated on the N.W. corner of the South half of the S.W. quarter of Section 14, Logan Township, Marshall County, that is now the Logan Cemetery. R.N. Warden gave one acre for church purposes situated on the N.W. corner of the one-half of the N.W. quarter of Section 23, Logan Township. However, James S. Gowdy gave one acre for church purposes situated in the N.E. corner of the N.E. quarter of Section 22, Logan Township, and this acre was accepted as the location for the first church building.

In April, 1878 a soliciting committee composed of R.N. Warden, J.G. Brown and James S. Gowdy was appointed and authorized to build a "House of Worship" on the Logan church lot. The house was to be 40 ft. long, 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. high or "high enough to make a neat and comfortable building". When the committee considered there was enough money subscribed by responsible parties to erect and complete such a house, they were to draft plans and specifications and have the building erected and, when completed to their satisfaction, to accept the same. On January 1, 1879 the new "House of Worship" was dedicated with a sermon by Rev. G.H. White of Chester and the prayer of dedication by Rev. H.C. McGoan of Gilman.

The original cost of the church building was \$1,700.00 and furnishings \$105.00. This was the day of small things for among the donations received were the following articles from Marshalltown businessmen: Lee & Bromley, table cloth and napkins; Cooper & Spears, 5 gallons of coal oil and a broom; Abbot & Kinsley, coal hod, shovel and oil can; G. Dugard, two door mats; George Whitten, one Brussels rug; and Lacy & Wells, one half-dozen lamp chimneys. Contributions from neighboring churches were: Green Mountain - \$25.00; Gilman - \$6.46; Des Moines - \$37.13; Chester - \$80.00; Canling - \$90.00; Ladies of Wittenburg, \$4.00; Mrs. Warden of Vermont, \$2.00; and \$47.00 subscribed on Dedication Day.

Soon after Rev. Arnold came to hold services, Mrs. Arnold organized a ladies group which they called "The Odds and Ends Society". This was a great help both socially and financially. When the new church building was completed, they had a rag carpet ready for it and money for furnishings. The fall after the

church building was completed, the Grinnell Association met at the Logan Church. All visiting ministers and delegates were brought from Newton in four or five spring wagons. Among them was Joseph Hough, father of Emerson Hough, author of "The Covered Wagon".

In the Spring of 1884, the Iowa Central having built a branch railroad to State Center from Grinnell, the church building was moved across country to Van Cleve and the name was changed to Van Cleve Congregational Church. It took 34 men, each with a team of horses, to move the church building.

On November 20, 1899, a committee composed of I. Milhous, R.N. Warden, Dr. W.T. Plumb and J.R. Gowdy, were appointed to look for a site and to make estimates for the building of a parsonage. Mrs. George Appel and Mrs. P.E. Bosch drew the plans. Sometime during 1902 the parsonage was completed at a cost of \$709.76. The parsonage was later remodeled, adding a Pastor's study, utility room, bath and furnace. It was sold in 1967 to Susan Gallagher when it was no longer needed to house the minister.

In the fall of 1923, the church was raised, a basement added to include a dining room and kitchen, also adding the vestibule and bell tower at a cost of \$5,500.00 - over three times the cost of the original building. Of this amount, \$1,200.00 was contributed in labor, supplies and equipment. Some of the donations not received as cash were: the 40" bell, the gift of the young people in the community, and the wiring and electrical equipment, the gift of Charles Gallentine. The building committee composed of Fred Ingels, H.G. Bosch, H.E. Warden, Mrs. Fred Hamler, Mrs. P.E. Bosch and Mrs. G.H. Wehrman. Rededication services were held June 8, 1924. The speakers were Rev. P. Adelstein Johnson, State Supt. of Congregational Churches, and two former ministers, the Rev. Charles E. Tower and Rev. J.E. Nyhan.

In 1930 on May 25 the church held its 60th anniversary, with Rev. P. A. Johnson again giving the morning address, with a basket dinner at noon. In the evening special music was presented by the Van Cleve quartet, St. John's Evangelical Choir, songs by the Baxter

Young People, a duet from the LaMoille Church, a solo from the Marshalltown Baptist Church and greetings from neighboring churches, former members and friends. Rev. Royal Montgomery gave the address in the evening. A young peoples rally was held from 4.00 to 6.00 p.m.

In 1939 the church celebrated paying off the debt on the building. After the morning service and a basket dinner, a fellowship hour was held in the church auditorium. Mrs. George Appel gave the history of the church, and Mrs. Herbert Tigges gave the history of the early days of the Aid Society, explaining how the women had worked to pay off the indebtedness of the church building. Mrs. L.H. Tigges, President of the Aid Society, burned the last note over a lighted candle while Mrs. Helen Pendarvis sang, "Bless this House". Rev. B. J. Trickey of Marshalltown was the guest speaker.

After World War II began a service flag was dedicated for the 14 young men of the community and eight more stars were added later.

In May, 1945 the church celebrated the 75th anniversary of its founding. Rev. B.W. Northrop gave the address of welcome with Rev. H. L. Rust, as the guest speaker. Special music was provided by the young people, and a history of the church and Aid Society were given.

In 1950, C. Shannon Morgan held dedication services for the church furniture given as memorials. This included the Pulpit to TRUTH, Communion Table to FELLOWSHIP, the two Pulpit Chairs to UNITY and the Clock to DEPENDABILITY. Later a permanent memorial fund was established, and record books purchased. In August, 1951 the Pilgrim Fellowship youth group was given permission to proceed with plans to raise the required money to purchase an electric organ, which was duly installed and dedicated. This organ was replaced in 1966 with an Allen organ.

At the annual meeting in January, 1959 another milestone in the history of the Van Cleve church was reached. More room was needed for Sunday School, special occasions and funerals. A building fund of \$3,515.00 had been accumulated, most of which

was received from legacies of the John Bosch and Will Pothast estates. Plans were made and approved to build an addition.

The finance and canvass committee headed by Willis Fiscus did a fine job and work on the addition started June 2, 1959. C.C. Dannen supervised the construction work which was done by the men of the community. The building committee composed of Claude Larrick, Burnell Settle, Kenneth Vogt, Mrs. Walter Stephenson and Mrs. John Tigges.

The addition on the South side of the church is 44 ft. long and 15-1/2 ft. wide. The basement portion includes restrooms and entry on the S.W. and two classrooms when divided by folding doors. Included on the main floor is a choir room and auditorium space which also forms two more classrooms when divided by folding doors. The second story adds another large classroom. The Sanctuary was remodeled, new floors and new carpeting were laid, new pews, new lighting and a second furnace were installed. The entire building was painted inside and out. Total cost was \$14,061.00 and the addition was completely debt-free. It was dedicated November 13, 1960 with Dr. Judson Fiebeger as guest speaker. Many memorials were also dedicated at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Gowdy, in 1945, gave the lot on the North side for use as a parking lot. In 1963, two parcels of land were purchased from Harold Eibs and Cecil Hilleman, increasing the parking space, and giving access to the church on the West.

In 1960 the church members voted to become a part of the United Church of Christ, which is the merger of the Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Churches. In January, 1962, we yoked with the St. John United Church of Christ of Melbourne, and Rev. Louis Grossen became the minister for both churches. This yoking agreement continues at present. The church name was changed to Van Cleve United Church of Christ in 1962.

In September, 1966 a dedication service was held for the new altar and Allen organ.

The founding fathers had the faith and determination to build this church for "the building up of Christ's

Kingdom". Throughout the 100 years of its existence, its members have shown this same faith and determination and the church stands today, a monument to our forefathers giving Faith and Hope to future generations.

MINISTERS

*Rev. George G. Poage	1869 - 1879
*Rev. S.A. Arnold	1881 - 1884
Rev. S.A. Martin	1884 - 1890
Rev. J. W. Scott	1891 - 1893
Rev. J.P. Clyde	1893 - 1895
R.E. Towle	3 months
Charles E. Tower	1895 - 1898
Rev. Marvin	6 months
H. E. Jones	6 months
Rev. J.G. Hambleton	1900 - 1904
Earl A. Munger	1904 - 1905
Joseph E. Nyhan	1905 - 1908
Leroy S. Hand	1908 - 1911
Clyde C. Harris	1911 - 1912
Charles Honey	1912 - 1913
Clyde C. Harris	1914 - 1915
William A. Smiley	1915 - 1916
Fred S. Hazard	1916 - 1917
Rev. W. S. Holland	1917 - 1921
Rev. A. C. Woodcock	1921 - 1923
Rev. Charles R. Bruce	1923 - 1926
Rev. J. F. Walsh	1926 - 1927
Rev. N. F. Pifer	1929 - 1933
Rev. Herman Crawford	1934 - 1936
Rev. J. A. Caskey	1936 - 1941
Rev. B. W. Northrop	1941 - 1947
C. Shannon Morgan	1948 - 1950
Rev. Lester Gatch	1950 - 1954
Denzil Hoskins	1954 - 1957
Rev. Charles Fausnacht	1958 - 1961
Rev. Louis Grossen	1962 - 1966
Rev. Charles Eversman	1966

*During the time both were at Van Cleve and preached alternate Sabbaths.

In the early years, many were students from Grinnell.

Those who supplied in later years were:

Dr. Royal Montgomery
Professor Neal Klausner
Rev. Ralph Beebe
Mrs. Helen Turner
Rev. Harry Lake

MEMORIALS

Pulpit Antependia
Communion Table
Clock
Pulpit
Two Pulpit Chairs
Remodeling Church Kitchen
Hymnals
New Lighting
Church Pews
Choir Pews
Bibles for S.S. Classes
Sunday School Supplies
Library Books
Offering Plates
Silver Coffee Service
and Candle Holders
Communion Service
Communion Tray and Cups
Cabinet Sink for Kitchen
Junior Song Books
Flower Vase
Pulpit Light
Baptismal Font
Church Organ
Church Altar
Record Player

GIFTS

Cross - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stockdale
Candle Sticks - Rev. and Mrs. Joseph E. Nyhan
and Florence
U.S. Flag - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gallentine
Candelabrum - Mr. and Mrs. G.J. Amendt
Legacies from Estates:
Will Pothast
John C. Bosch
Abbie Otte
G. J. Amendt
Katherine Stockdale
Class Bell - Rev. and Mrs. Lester Gatch

LONG-TIME MEMBERS

- 54 Years - Robert Stockdale
- 43 Years - Mrs. Aubrey Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Vogt
- 40 Years - Mrs. Claude Larrick
- 34 Years - Mrs. Herbert Tigges
- 32 Years - Delmar Tigges
- 27 Years - Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hamler
Mrs. Carlton Ridout
Mrs. Fred Feldschneider
Mrs. Dave Grady
Leonard Warden
George Dannen
Mrs. Lynn Gowdy
- 26 Years - Claude Larrick
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bosch
- 25 Years - Kenneth Vogt
Loren Vogt
- 23 Years - Raymond Turnbull
Merle Pothast
Kenneth Pothast
Mrs. Delmar Tigges
- 22 Years - Mr. and Mrs. John Tigges
Mrs. Leonard Warden
- 20 Years - Maurice Korte
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stephenson
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pothast
Orville Fuller
Carlton Ridout
Aubrey Johnston
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Pothast
Mrs. Merle Pothast
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Pothast

EVENTS OF THE DAY

9.30 a.m. Morning Coffee

10.30 a.m. Centennial Worship Service

Speaker: Dr. Judson Fiebiger,
Conference Minister
of the Iowa Conference,
United Church of Christ

Confirmands: Debbie Dannen
Daniel Warden
Mark Turnbull

12.00 Noon Fellowship Dinner

2.00 p.m. Afternoon Program

Group Singing

Remarks by Former Pastors

Special Music

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